



# CITY OF TUCSON



Ready to Protect,  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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Roberto A. Villaseñor  
Chief of Police

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**Date:** 06/27/2013  
**TDD:** 791-2639

### **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE REQUESTED REGARDING POLICE IMPERSONATORS**

**\*\*\*UPDATE – JULY 11, 2013\*\*\***

The investigation regarding the incidents of police impersonation that occurred in June of 2013 has continued. Two arrests have been made in relation to at least one of the incidents. At approximately 1:00 a.m. on June 20, 2013, two males in a vehicle, which had been outfitted to resemble an unmarked police car, affected a traffic stop on another civilian vehicle in the 4900 block of East 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The Tucson Police Department Air Unit happened to be in the area and observed the vehicles stopped in the roadway. The personnel in the helicopter immediately recognized that the traffic stop did not appear to be a normal traffic stop due to the lighting on the simulated police vehicle, the positioning of the vehicles on the roadway, etc. As such, they illuminated the vehicles involved in the fake traffic stop and requested assistance from patrol units on the ground. As other officers were arriving to the area, the simulated police vehicle fled. It came to a stop a short while later. The male passenger fled on foot. He was ultimately located in a nearby neighborhood after a foot search was completed. The male driver remained with the vehicle and was immediately contacted by Tucson Police Department officers. Additional investigation was required to determine what role each male had in the fake traffic stop. Neither was arrested in relation to the impersonation incident that evening, but Tucson Police Department personnel retained custody of their vehicle in furtherance of the investigation. Ultimately, both males were arrested for charges relating to Attempted Armed Robbery, Aggravated Assault, and Impersonating a Peace Officer, all felony offenses, in relation to the fake traffic stop that occurred on the early morning of June 20, 2013. Both have been transported and booked into the Pima County Jail. Unfortunately, their names and photographs are not yet available due to on-going investigation. Also, as previously requested, the Tucson Police Department would like to hear from anyone who believes they may have been pulled over by these police impersonators or any other potential police impersonators. Please call 911 or 88-Crime if you believe you have been a victim of this crime.

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Sergeant Maria Hawke – July 11, 2013

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The Tucson Police Department is investigating a series of events that occurred during an approximate 10-day time period between the dates of June 10, 2013 and June 20, 2013, involving an unknown number of male suspects posing as police officers while making traffic stops with a vehicle outfitted to resemble a police car. The vehicle used by the suspect(s) was a dark colored Ford Crown Victoria (large four door sedan) outfitted with low profile red and blue lights above the

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

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dashboard on the inside of the vehicle as well as additional lighting in the rear window area of the vehicle. The Ford Crown Victoria had no police markings on it and did not have any rooftop emergency lights.

**The vehicle used during these events has been recovered and is currently in the possession of the Tucson Police Department.** Tucson Police Department Detectives are attempting to identify anyone who has been stopped by a vehicle consistent with the above description and has been contacted by a subject or subjects, who were not dressed in a police uniform, but might have identified themselves as a police officer or other law enforcement/government agent. No citations would have been issued by these subjects.

Detectives are asking that anyone stopped under these circumstances anywhere in the Tucson area to call 911 or 88-CRIME. Citizens are reminded that if they ever have any doubt as to the identity of any police officer they may call 911 to verify the officer's identity.

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